

**Senate Public Safety Committee
2008**

Senator Jack Murphy, 27th

Chairman
3830 Adams Road
Cumming, GA 30041

Senator Johnny Grant, 25th

Ex Officio
P. O. Box 1458
Milledgeville, GA 31059-1458

Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd

Vice Chairman
212 English Avenue
Chicamauga, GA 30707

Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd

Secretary
P. O. Box 3119
Brunswick, GA 31521

Senator Gloria Butler, 55th

6241 Southland Trace
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Senator Joseph Carter, 13th

P. O. Box 7271
Tifton, GA 31793

Senator Gail Davenport, 44th

P. O. Box 1074
Jonesboro, GA 30237

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th

P. O. Box 370244
Decatur, GA 30037

Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

P. O. Box 960008
Riverdale, GA 30274

Senator William (Bill) Jackson, 24th

P. O. Box 528
Appling, GA 30802

Senator John Douglas, 17th

Ex Officio
295 Nicklaus Circle
Social Circle, GA 30025

Senate Public Safety Committee

2008 Rules

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be five (5) members.
2. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute, or amendment for debate and explanation only.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
5. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to hearing.
6. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report in writing, setting forth concise reasons for their dissent.
7. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee, in a meeting called by the Chairman.
8. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after the presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or she designates to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principle author shall be the one whose name appeared first in the list of authors.
9. When these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
January 29, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held its first meeting on January 29, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Joseph Carter, 13th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Valencia Seay, 34th, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th, and Senator Gloria Butler, 55th.

Chairman Murphy opened the meeting by stating that he has been appointed to take over the Public Safety Committee because the former Chairman, Senator Whitehead resigned during the summer to run for Congress. Chairman Murphy stated that Senator Whitehead had done an excellent job, and he looks forward to working with the Committee. He also stated that since this is a new Committee with a new name (Senate Public Safety Committee) the Committee needs to adopt the Public Safety Committee Rules. Senator Douglas, 17th, moved to adopt the rules. Senator Mullis, 53rd, seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SB 350, Wiles, 37th, Drivers' Licenses; requirement; driving while license suspended

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Wiles, 37th, to speak to his legislation. Senator Wiles stated that this legislation regards the fact that many people drive on Georgia highways and have never had a valid Georgia license. Under current law, there is a slap on the wrist, a small fine, and away you go.

Senator Wiles stated that last year in Cobb County one of their law enforcement officers was killed on his way to work by a driver who had never had a driver's license. Two of his constituents have also been killed on I-75 by persons who have never had a driver's license. Senator Wiles stated that the reason he brought this legislation is because he has talked with judges about the situation. This legislation makes it a felony to be caught driving without a license four times in five years in Georgia.

The Governor vetoed a similar bill last year because it did not cover people who are entitled to get a license but forgot to get one. The new bill covers this situation. If someone is stopped and did not know that they were supposed to have a license, this bill provides protection for them. They can go and get a license, show it to the judge, and the case will be dismissed.

This legislation treats driving without a license the same as driving with a suspended license. This bill fixes the problem that the Governor's office saw with the legislation last year. The Attorney's Council supports this bill as well as the judges.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Butler, 55th, for a question regarding the reasons for fingerprinting. Senator Wiles stated that the legislation provides for fingerprinting on the first offense in order to keep records of each offense. This is on line 9, page 1. At the present time a person can change their name each time they are arrested, and there is no continuing record of the number of times they are arrested for driving without a license.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Jones for a question. Senator Jones asked Senator Wiles a question regarding criminal intent. Senator Wiles stated that at the present time an officer has to have probable cause to stop a driver.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Carter, 13th, for a question. Senator Carter asked a question regarding Page 2, lines 11-12 about the safety net. This gives the judge the option to tell the person to go get a license and come back to court on a date certain and the case will be dismissed.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Mullis, 53rd, for a comment. Senator Mullis stated that he supports the legislation and that driving is a privilege and not a constitutional right.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Butler, 55th, for a question regarding racial profiling. She asked how an officer would know if someone did not have a license. Senator Wiles stated that unless it is a child driving a car and obviously too young, the officer cannot stop them unless a law is broken, and there must be probable cause to stop someone.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Davenport, 44th for a question. She stated that there are people who are never able to pass the written driver's license test. Senator Wiles stated that every driving offence in Georgia has a 12 month sentence if the judge so orders.

Senator Seay arrived at the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Jones for a question. Senator Jones stated that he was once stopped by a policeman because he was driving a new car, and he is African American. Senator Wiles stated that there must be probable cause for an officer to stop someone.

Chairman Murphy stated that he had a list of people who wished to speak to the Committee and asked if they would please keep their comments to 2 minutes, and he called upon Elise Shore from MALDEF to speak to the legislation.

Elise Shore stated that MALDEF opposes this bill because it will discourage the Latino community from reporting crime. The bill also does not give the police discretion to arrest, they must arrest. They also believe the bill causes racial profiling.

Chairman Murphy called upon Mr. Jaime Herman from Taylor and Lee to speak to the legislation. Mr. Herman asked the committee to look at the international law regarding foreign visitors who can maintain driving privileges for one year. He stated that he sees flaws in this bill.

Chairman Murphy then called upon Mr. D. A. King to speak to the legislation. Mr. King stated that the bill is making the penalty stiff enough to stop people from driving without a license.

Chairman Murphy then called upon Senator Wiles for a summary of the legislation. Senator Wiles stated that the Superior Court judges endorse the legislation.

Chairman Murphy then called upon Senator Douglas for a motion. Senator Douglas moved "Do Pass." Senator Mullis seconded the motion. Senator Jones suggested that the bill be assigned to a subcommittee, however the Chairman stated that there was already a motion. Motion passed 5-4. Voting in favor of the motion were Senator Carter, Senator Grant, Senator Douglas, Senator Mullis, and Senator Jackson. Opposed to the motion were Senator Jones, Senator Butler, Senator Davenport, and Senator Seay.

SB 335, Douglas, 17th, State Agencies; designate English as official language

Chairman Murphy announced that he is placing SB 335 in a Sub-Committee with Senator Mullis as Chairman. Senator Jackson and Senator Douglas were also assigned to the Subcommittee.

SB 25, Douglas, 17th, License plates; driver's license; issuance, payment; proof of citizenship

Chairman Murphy stated that he is postponing hearing SB 25 until a later meeting due to problems with the legislation that are being worked out.

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There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jack Murphy, Chairman

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
January 31, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on January 31, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Valencia Seay, 34th, and Senator Gloria Butler, 55th. Committee Chairman Senator Jack Murphy was not able to be present for the meeting due to his mother's illness; therefore Vice Chairman Mullis conducted the meeting.

SB 315, Smith, 52nd, Driver's Licenses; abolish Georgia Driver's Education Commission

Vice Chairman Mullis called upon Senator Smith, 52nd, to speak to his legislation. Senator Smith stated that this substitute legislation clarifies Joshua's Law which was established in 2005 and provides that no person under 17 years of age will be issued any Class M driver's license or any Class D driver's license permitting the operation of a noncommercial Class C vehicle unless they meet certain strict requirements. The legislation also extends the sunset on current law for the five percent fee on traffic fines to the year 2013 for the purpose of providing funding for driver's education and training.

Senator Seay moved "Do Pass by Substitute" and Senator Butler, seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SB 356, Henson, 41st, Fines and Forfeitures; county treasuries; payment of certain moneys

Vice Chairman Mullis called upon Senator Henson, 41st, to speak to his legislation. Senator Henson stated that his legislation requires that money obtained from traffic citations issued by each college or university campus police department's motorcycle enforcement unit must be remitted to that campus' department for the maintenance and enhancement of its motorcycle enforcement program.

From the fines assessed, the court costs would be paid first, then the jurisdiction would receive a share, and the remainder would go to the University Police for maintenance of the motorcycles. Senator Henson stated that the motorcycles have to be sent out for repair, and it is very expensive to even change a tire or repair motorcycles. He stated that at present there are motorcycle police at Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia. They are able to get to the scene of an accident quickly on a motorcycle. Senator Davenport asked if there were motorcycle police on the Atlanta University Campus, and Senator Henson stated there were none.

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Vice Chairman Mullis called upon Mr. Oliver Hunter of the Georgia Sheriff's Association for questions regarding the legislation. He stated that the officers do not receive any personal gain from writing tickets. Senator Mullis stated that this motorcycle program is modeled after the State Patrol.

Senator Seay moved "Do Pass" and Senator Butler seconded. Motion passed 5-1. Voting in favor of the legislation were Senator Seay, Senator Butler, Senator Douglas, Senator Jackson, and Senator Davenport. Opposed to the legislation was Senator Grant.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairman Mullis at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
February 7, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on February 7, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Joseph Carter, 13th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Valencia Seay, 34th, and Senator Gloria Butler, 55th.

SB 335, Douglas, 17th, State Agencies; designate English as official language; prohibit requiring employees to speak/learn any other languages for employment.

Chairman Murphy opened the meeting by announcing that the Committee would not be hearing this bill today, because he has talked with Senator Douglas, and he is putting SB 335 back into Subcommittee in order to resolve conflicts arising from the legislation. A better compromise needs to be reached, and the bill will be taken up next week.

SB 307, Murphy, 27th, Uniform Rules; leaving a motor vehicle unattended; repeal Code Section 40-6-201.

Senator Murphy announced that SB 307 had been attached to HB 144 in the 2007 session of the General Assembly and passed. Therefore there was no need to discuss this bill today.

SB 373, Murphy, 27th, Peace Officers; emergency suspension of a peace officer's certification under circumstances; interviews for employment; modify requirements.

Chairman Murphy announced that SB 373 authorizes the Peace Officers Standards Council to suspend any officer who is arrested for a felony. Currently they cannot suspend an officer who is arrested. The Executive Director must determine whether the suspension is in the best interest of the health and safety of the public. Following the suspension the issuance procedures of the Council must be scheduled. At the present time it is difficult to suspend an officer. Chairman Murphy announced that Mr. Ken Vance would testify about this problem.

Mr. Vance stated that most people thought we already had the authority to suspend an officer who had been arrested or indicted for a felony. However, that is not the case at the present time. Under this bill there would be a temporary suspension, and the Post Council President and Vice President and Attorney General would gather the facts and make a recommendation to the Chairman of the Post Council, and they would make the decision to suspend.

When the case is closed the certification would be immediately restored to the officer. The second part of the bill on page 2, section 7 provides for them to be awarded their certification when they finish the Academy immediately rather than waiting until they are hired.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Seay for a question. Senator Seay stated that she did not know that a person could put themselves through Peace Officers Training and had to be sponsored. Mr. Vance stated that they have to be accepted, but they are able to put themselves through the Academy.

The Chairman then asked the Committee for the pleasure of the Committee regarding the bill. Senator Jackson moved "Do Pass" and Senator Douglas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
February 12, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on February 12, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Joseph Carter, 13th, Secretary, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Valencia Seay, 34th, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th and Senator Gloria Butler, 55th.

SB 430, Hamrick, 30th, DNA; GBI include information in database/compare; evidentiary materials

Chairman Murphy opened the meeting by calling upon Mr. Bert Keenan of the GBI to talk about SB 430, since the bill's sponsor, Senator Hamrick, 30th, had not arrived at the meeting. Mr. Keenan stated that this legislation would allow the GBI to use DNA evidence just the same way that fingerprints are used at present. They have 146,000 samples within the data base. This legislation would allow them to use DNA evidence to solve cases that have gone unsolved. They would treat the DNA evidence just the same as fingerprints. This would allow them to use DNA evidence against the database.

Senator Hamrick, 30th, arrived at the meeting.

There were no further questions, and Senator Jackson moved "Do Pass," and Senator Douglas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

After the legislation had already passed, Sandy Michaels from GACOL and Amy Maxwell from the Georgia Innocence Project stood in the audience to ask to be recognized. They stated that they had wanted to speak to the legislation, but the Chairman did not call upon them. Chairman Murphy told them that they could speak. Ms. Michaels stated that they had concerns with the legislation regarding government intrusion and that consent should be one time only, rather than DNA going into the database forever, because there is no provision for expungement.

Chairman Murphy thanked them for their testimony, and he asked the Committee if there was anyone who wanted to change their vote on the legislation. There were no changes in the vote.

SB 25, Douglas, 17th, License Plates; driver's license; issuance; payment; proof of citizenship

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Douglas to speak to his legislation. Senator Douglas stated that SB 25 is a combination of two bills. The initial part of the bill passed out of committee last year. It stated that anyone who aids or abets someone to get a license in Georgia who is illegally here is guilty of a felony. Section 3 contains the second part of the bill which states that when someone is in the state and driving a foreign car with a tag that is not in the computer system and cannot be checked by the state patrol within an hour, the car can be impounded. The exemptions of this would be if the driver is in the country legally with a VISA or an international driver's license. Section 5 of the bill states that any person who makes a false statement regarding their citizenship status is guilty of a felony.

Chairman Murphy asked if anyone else wished to speak to the legislation, and there were no speakers. Senator Jackson moved "Do Pass," and Senator Chapman seconded. Motion Passed 4-3. Voting in favor of the legislation were Senator Jackson, Senator Chapman, Senator Douglas, and Senator Jones. Opposed to the legislation were Senator Butler, Senator Davenport, and Senator Seay.

HB 77, Loudermilk, 14th, Motor vehicles; traffic-control signal monitoring devices; repeal provisions.

Chairman Murphy stated that there is a Substitute to HB 77, and he called upon Representative Loudermilk, 14th, to speak to his legislation. Representative Loudermilk stated that HB 77 was introduced last year at the beginning of the session, and the legislation simply repealed the section of the legislation which allowed the state and city governments to operate red light cameras. There is a Substitute which he thinks is an improvement over what was passed out of the House last year.

Senator Mullis and Senator Carter arrived at the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

The substitute to HB 77 emphasizes that red light cameras are for safety purposes rather than revenue generating purposes. It also deals with constitutional issues relating to due process. He asked the Committee to turn to page 2, line 37 regarding the picture of the tag rather than the person driving. The constitution provides for a presumption of innocence rather than a presumption of guilt.

The Minnesota Supreme Court upheld that the way the code reads, it is a presumption of guilt to take a picture of the tag and presume the owner was driving. It puts the presumption of guilt on the accused rather than the State.

This legislation does not address the constitutional issue, but will limit the proliferation of red light cameras in this state put in for revenue purposes rather than safety purposes. There are many stories about the errors that are made using red light cameras, and an example is a funeral procession going through the red light with pictures being made. The legislation does require that a law enforcement officer must review the tickets before they are sent out.

Representative Loudermilk also stated that red light cameras increase rear end auto accidents. The data last year showed that one intersection in Marietta generated \$1.6 million, and the revenue coming in is tremendous. The red light cameras should be used for safety and not for generating revenue. This legislation requires that through engineering documentation studies show that they are using the red light camera for public safety.

Chairman Murphy stated that this is a Public Safety Committee Substitute to HB 77 because there is no oversight right now over red light cameras. The DOT will take this over and monitor the red light cameras. Municipalities will have to apply for a permit to install them.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Douglas for a question to Representative Loudermilk regarding the revenue stream. Rep. Loudermilk stated that there is a correlation between the number cited with tickets and the money received.

Chairman Murphy stated that he was hearing a motion to take the bill off the table. Senator Mullis so moved, but there was no second.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
February 19, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on February 19, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Senator Joseph Carter, 13th, and Senator Johnny Grant, 25th.

SB 335, Douglas, 17th, State Agencies; designate English as official language

Chairman Murphy opened the meeting by stating that this legislation is controversial and he is going to hear it briefly today at the end of the meeting and would hear two testimonies on each side of the issue, because the bill has been in Sub Committee. However, he would hear other legislation first.

SB 412, Jones, 10th, Motor Vehicles; change nomenclature from “air bag” to “life bag”

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Jones to speak to his legislation. Senator Jones stated that this legislation relates to automobiles and changes the nomenclature of “air bag” to “life bag,” and “seat belt” to “life belt.” This will amend the Georgia Code Title 51. The legislation is companion legislation to SR 809 urging Congress to change the reference of seat belt to life belt and air bag to life bag.

Senator Jones stated that this change of nomenclature will not cost the manufacturers anything to change the titles. Chairman Murphy asked Senator Jones about the language on Page 1, Section 1, lines 14-17. Senator Jones stated that this regards tampering with the installation of life bags and life belts. Senator Douglas asked a question regarding the message that this legislation will bring to the driving public about the importance of these terms. Senator Jones stated that this is the purpose of the legislation.

Senator Carter and Senator Grant arrived at the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Chairman Murphy called upon Mr. Ragan Marsh, lobbyist for Troutman Sanders, speaking in behalf of General Motors. Mr. Marsh spoke in opposition to the legislation regarding the cost of advertising these terms.

Senator Butler moved “Do Pass,” and Senator Douglas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SR 809, Jones, 10th, Congress, Automobile Industry; urged to substitute “life belt” for “seat belt”

Senator Murphy asked for Senator Jones to continue his testimony regarding this companion legislation. Senator Jones stated that this legislation urges Congress, governmental agencies, the National Transportation Safety Board, automobile manufacturers, advertisers, dealers, and other states to revise their nomenclature and replace the terms “air bag and “safety belt” with the terms “life bag” and “life belt.” Senator Jones stated that these terms carry more meaning and emphasis than the old terms. There were no questions, and Senator Butler moved “Do Pass,” and Senator Davenport seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SB 335, Douglas, 17th, State Agencies; designate English as official language

Chairman Murphy stated that this bill has been in Sub Committee and then called upon Senator Douglas to speak to his legislation. Senator Douglas stated that there is a Substitute LC 35 0826S from which he was speaking. He stated that this regards foreign language instruction, and that immigrants coming to America should learn English.

The legislation prohibits state and local governments from requiring a person who is employed or seeking employment or promotion with such entity to speak a foreign language or to complete foreign training as a condition of employment or promotion. These entities are also prohibited from giving preferential treatment to any person for the ability to speak a foreign language or receiving foreign language training. This prohibition does not apply to any position of employment for which the ability to speak a foreign language is the primary function of that position.

Chairman Murphy called upon those opposed to the legislation to speak. Mr. Antonio Jenetta representing Georgia Appleseed spoke, as well as Sara Katz representing MALDEF.

Chairman Murphy then called upon those in favor of the legislation. Mr. D. A. King spoke to urge passage, and he stated that the state cannot require an employee to learn Spanish.

Chairman Murphy asked for the pleasure of the Committee. Senator Jackson moved “Do Pass by Substitute,” and Senator Chapman seconded. Motion passed 7-1. Voting in favor of the legislation were Senator Douglas, Senator Jackson, Senator Davenport, Senator Jones, Senator Chapman, Senator Carter and Senator Grant. Opposed to the legislation was Senator Butler.

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There being no further business, Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

**Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
February 21, 2008**

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on February 21, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th, and Senator Gail Davenport, 44th.

SB 414, Mullis, 53rd, 2008 Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council Act; revise definitions; provide for calling of meetings/quorum.

Chairman Murphy opened the meeting by calling upon Senator Mullis to speak to his legislation. Senator Mullis stated that he is asking that SB 414 be removed from the table. Senator Douglas moved that SB 414 be removed from the table, and Senator Chapman seconded. There were no objections. Chairman Murphy stated that he would hear this bill at the end of the agenda.

SB 437, Mullis, 53rd, Motor Vehicles; provide for registration/licensing of assembled motor vehicles and motorcycles; issuance of certificate of title to owners.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Mullis to speak to his legislation. Senator Mullis stated that his legislation regards getting titles for newly created or assembled motor vehicles or motorcycles. They must comply with all safety standards and meet inspections. The Department of Revenue will charge an inspection fee of \$260.00 and the vehicle or motorcycle must comply with all state laws such as emission requirements in order to be certified, registered, and titled. After brief discussion, Senator Jackson moved "Do Pass," and Senator Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HB 77, Loudermilk, Motor Vehicles, traffic-control signal monitoring devices; repeal provisions.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Mullis for a motion. Senator Mullis made a motion to move HB 77 off the table. Senator Chapman seconded. Motion passed. Voting in favor of the motion were Senator Mullis, Senator Chapman, Senator Seay, Senator Jackson, and Senator Douglas. Those opposed to the motion were Senator Butler, Senator Jones, and Senator Davenport.

Chairman Murphy stated that the red light cameras have not had any oversight, and this legislation by substitute will establish the DOT as the oversight agency to be sure that the red light cameras are used for public safety and not revenue generation. The city or county will have to apply for a permit through the DOT, and they will not be able to adjust the yellow lights to make for a trap. The intersections will be reviewed in three years to see if traffic accidents are down. The legislation will not do away with the red light cameras, but they will be used only for public safety.

Chairman Murphy stated that he would open the meeting for a hearing on the legislation, and he will hear three people against and three in favor of the legislation and called upon Mr. Dan Bruno of the Gwinnett County Police Department who stated that he opposes the state oversight of red light cameras. He stated that they have three systems in Gwinnett and have internal oversight.

Chairman Murphy called upon Mr. Keith Golden from the DOT to talk about the permits. He stated that permits would be issued within 30 to 60 days after an engineering study. He is aware that some of the cameras are a trap like speed traps have been. Senator Butler asked a question regarding the engineering study, the cost and fees involved. Mr. Golden stated that it would be within the D. O. T.

Chairman Murphy called upon Mr. John King of the Doraville Police who stated that they were opposed to the legislation as well, as they have their own oversight.

Also speaking briefly in opposition to the legislation were Mr. Robert Dallas of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Mr. Frank Rotondo from the Georgia Chiefs Association, Jackie Gibbs from Marietta, Gary George of Alpharetta, Sallie Flock of PEDS, and Kim Conroy of Gwinnett County.

Chairman Murphy asked the Committee if there was a motion. Senator Mullis moved "Do Pass by Substitute," and Senator Jackson seconded. Motion passed 5-1. Voting in favor of the motion were Senator Butler, Senator Jones, Senator Seay, Senator Davenport, and Senator Chapman. Opposed to the motion was Senator Douglas.

HB 945, Rice, 51st, Motor vehicles; registration and title records; allow certain persons access

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Rice to speak to his legislation. Representative Rice stated that this is a simple bill which authorizes certain persons selected by the Department of Revenue Commissioner to access vehicle tag and title information in order to provide notice to the owners of towed or impounded vehicles. The bill also authorizes a person who removed or is storing an abandoned vehicle to notify the Revenue Department electronically within seven calendar days from the day such vehicle became abandoned.

The legislation also allows towing companies who remove a vehicle from public or private property at the request of a law enforcement officer or property owner to seek the identity and address of all known owners by direct electronic access from state agencies and authorities within three business days of removal. Senator Jones moved “Do Pass,” and Senator Butler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HB 1027, Rice, 51st, Defensive driving courses; alcohol or drug programs; curriculum; provisions

Chairman Murphy asked Representative Rice to continue his testimony with this legislation as well. Representative Rice stated that this legislation authorizes online and classroom 6 hour courses in driver instruction. Senator Butler asked a question about DUI classes, and Representative Rice stated that the legislation does not include online DUI courses. Senator Butler asked why this is a controversy, whether the schools are concerned about losing business.

Speaking in opposition to the legislation was Michael Falk, a driving instructor representing DEOF, Driving Educators of Georgia.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Mullis for a comment. Senator Mullis stated to the committee and visitors that he did not appreciate the threatening calls and e-mails about this legislation.

Speaking in favor of the legislation was Barry Shrenk, President of Taggart’s Driving School.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Mullis for a motion. Senator Mullis moved to amend the bill on line 19, page 1, regarding the code section. Senator Butler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Jones for a motion. Senator Jones moved “Do Pass by Substitute,” and Senator Seay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
February 26, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on February 26, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Joseph Carter, 13th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, and Senator Valencia Seay, 34th.

SB 394, Unterman, 45th, Traffic-control Signal Monitoring Devices; portion of funds to trauma care network

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Unterman to speak to her legislation. Senator Unterman stated that this legislation would direct 50% of the revenue from red light cameras to go toward the trauma care network in the state.

Chairman Murphy called upon Mr. Lewis Massey to speak to the Committee about the legislation. His company, Massey and Bowers represents Laser Craft who manufactures red light cameras and they are opposed to the legislation.

Mr. Massey also brought Debbie Trainor with him who represents Laser Craft. Ms. Trainor stated that their product is in 13 cities and counties and they are experiencing declining revenues because drivers are becoming more aware of the cameras. Gwinnett County has 5 camera systems in place at this time. Mr. Massey stated that there is competition in the industry. There are six companies that manufacture red light cameras, and they are in 30 states at this time. It costs \$65,000 for manufacturing and installing a red light camera, and the prices are going up.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Jones for a question. Sen. Jones asked Mr. Massey and Ms. Trainor why they care where the revenue to the cities and counties goes?

Chairman Murphy called upon Mr. Ted Bagett from Georgia Municipal Association to speak to the legislation. Mr. Bagett stated that the red light cameras generate revenue for the cities to use for emergency services.

Chairman Murphy called upon Mr. Jackie Gibbs of the Marietta Fire Department to speak regarding the legislation. He stated that they had bought \$250,000 worth of fire equipment from the revenues of the red light cameras. Chairman Murphy mentioned that each red light ticket is a \$70 fee.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Unterman to close the discussion on the legislation. She stated that her intent was to use 50% of the revenues after operating costs to go toward trauma care. She stated that the cities and counties are making great profits on the cameras and part of this money needs to go toward the trauma network.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Douglas for a motion. He moved "Do Not Pass". Senator Grant seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were Senator Douglas, Senator Grant, Senator Jones, Senator Davenport, and Senator Seay. Opposed to the motion were Senator Carter and Senator Jackson. Motion passed 4-2.

Senator Mullis arrived at the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

SB 349, Wiles, 37th, Penal Institutions; convicted person/detention; transmittal of information

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Wiles to speak to his legislation. He stated that this legislation provides that once a convicted person has remained in the custody of a local jail for a period of 90 days, a petition may be filed to determine whether the convicted person should be transferred to state custody. The court will determine whether the convicted person will be transferred to state custody or remain in the local jail. Senator Wiles stated that he had the sheriffs' support on the legislation, and he introduced Mr. Oliver Hunter of the Georgia Sheriff's Association who confirmed their support. There were no questions, and Senator Mullis moved "Do Pass." Senator Seay seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

SB 488, Rogers, 21st, Drivers' Licenses; allow foreign nationals to keep their license.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Rogers to speak to his legislation. Senator Rogers stated that when foreign nationals come to Georgia, they must turn in their foreign driver's license in order to receive a Georgia license. This legislation would permit them to keep their foreign driver's license for three years when they receive a Georgia license. The legislation would help people who are here in the state on international business. There were no questions, and Senator Douglas moved "Do Pass by Substitute." Senator Mullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SB 414, Mullis, 53rd, 2008 Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council Act; revise definition

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Mullis to speak to his legislation. Senator Mullis stated that this legislation makes a few changes to the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council by increasing the number of members required to constitute a quorum from four to six. There were a few other changes as well. The substitute was agreed upon by the cities and counties. Senator Jones moved "Do Pass by Substitute," and Senator Seay seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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There was no further business, and Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
March 4, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on March 4, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, and Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th.

HB 1111, Floyd, 147th, Drivers' licenses; requirements; fees; provisions

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Floyd, 147th, to speak to his legislation. Representative Floyd stated that this Substitute for HB 1111 is a housekeeping bill for the Georgia Department of Driver Services. The legislation provides for information to be released by DDS for purposes of voter registration as well as other changes. If an appointment for a driver's test is missed or the person does not show up for the appointment, a fee is charged. The legislation also repeals any mention of social security numbers on commercial drivers' licenses or state Identification cards. It also requires the use of a person's legal name located on their birth certificate.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Davenport for a question. She asked if the \$25.00 fees will remain the same, and Representative Floyd stated that it remains the same.

The Chairman called upon Senator Chapman for a question regarding identity theft. He questioned the repeal of social security numbers, because he thought they had already been repealed. Representative Floyd stated that they had not been repealed on commercial driver's licenses, but this legislation does that.

The Chairman then called upon Senator Mullis for a comment. Senator Mullis thanked Representative Floyd for bringing this legislation and congratulated him for being elected to the DOT Board.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Jackson, for a question. Senator Jackson stated that he uses big truck drivers in his business. His drivers are excellent but often have a hard time passing the written part of the exam. Rep. Floyd stated that the Technical Schools are working on assisting with that problem to make it an easier process and the commercial license requires strong safety oriented trucks.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Jackson for a motion. Senator Jackson moved “Do Pass by Substitute.” Senator Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

SB 517, Hill, 32nd, Special License Plate; persons with disability; provide for issuance; business vehicles used by disabled employees

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Judson Hill, 32nd, to speak to his legislation. He stated that this legislation was initiated by a constituent with a disabled license tag. There is a need for a business to have disabled license tags for their trucks, cars, or vans so that a disabled driver can have a place to park that is close to the business.

The vehicle with a disabled tag would be primarily used by the disabled person, and if the vehicle is used by another employee who is not disabled, they will not be able to park the vehicle in a disabled parking place. If they do park in a disabled place, they will be guilty of a misdemeanor. These license plates will replace the signs that hang on the rear view mirror. Senator Mullis moved “Do Pass” and Senator Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

There was no further business, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
March 12, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on March 12, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator Joseph Carter, 13th, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Valencia Seay, 34th, Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, and Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th.

[HB 983](#), Collins, 27th, Out-of-state law enforcement officers; arrest certain offenders; provide

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Collins, 27th, to speak to his legislation. Representative Collins stated that this bill authorizes law enforcement agencies from neighboring states to arrest and hold in custody persons who cross state lines into Georgia.

When an arrest is made in Georgia by another state's law enforcement officer, the law enforcement officer must, without unnecessary delay, take the person before a judicial officer of Georgia for imprisonment. Once the person is imprisoned, the provisions of Chapter 13 of Title 17 will govern the extradition and return of the person to the state in which the criminal offense was committed. This legislation applies only to law enforcement officers from Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee. Alabama is the only state that has not signed on as yet, but negotiations are in process with them.

There were no questions, and Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Mullis for a motion. Senator Mullis moved "Do Pass," and Senator Douglas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

[HB 978](#), Mills, 25th, Traffic accidents, illegal immigrants; seize vehicle; allow law enforcement

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Mills, 25th to speak to his legislation. Representative Mills stated that he has represented South Hall County for 16 years in the Georgia House. He has received many phone calls from constituents whose cars have been hit by illegals who had no driver's license or insurance. The constituents have to file their own insurance to pay for damages, and then their premium goes up.

Representative Mills stated that one particular case has forced him to bring this legislation. The case involved a 16 year old boy, Dustin Inman and his mother who were involved in an accident caused by an illegal immigrant. Dustin was killed on impact and the mother was injured so severely that she is in a wheelchair for the rest of her life.

Representative Mills stated that the legislation is modeled after the federal code sections on drug trafficking whereby the vehicle and even the home can be seized. This legislation would only involve persons who are in the state and country illegally, and when the vehicle is seized, the money would go back to the victim to make them whole. He stated that there were a few things that needed to be corrected about seizure and forfeiture; therefore this is a Substitute for HB 978.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Jones, for a question regarding car dealers making spot deliveries, as to whether the car could be seized from an illegal resident. Representative Mills stated that a person must be in the country with a work permit or some other form of legal residence, otherwise they are here illegally.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Davenport for a question. Senator Davenport asked a question regarding the fines as to whether this is excessive. Representative Mills stated that illegals cannot and do not have a Georgia driver's license and have not been trained or tested on driving a 3,000 pound bullet. The police must have probable cause to arrest the person, and the police can call dispatch to prove the person's citizenship by their driver's license number, social security number, or birthday with full name.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Douglas for a question. He stated that a young lady in his district had been hit by an illegal and killed.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Gloria Butler for a question. She stated that this is one of the worst pieces of legislation she has seen. She asked when we gave law enforcement authority to enforce federal law. Representative Mills stated that we support federal government and laws, but our federal government has not dealt with immigration, therefore the states have to do it themselves. She also stated that she thinks that forfeiture is an excessive fine, and asked if he foresees lawsuits?

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Seay for a question. She asked Representative Mills if the federal government has failed us. Representative Mills stated that an illegal has to violate a law to be stopped by the police. On line 24, page 1 and lines 7-8 on page 2, the legislation provides for the vehicle to be returned to the legal owner promptly and without penalty if it belongs to a legal resident.

Senators Mullis, Butler, and Douglas left the meeting to attend the Rules Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Carter for a question. Senator Carter thanked Representative Mills for bringing the legislation, and he asked for what crime they would be seizing for in line 16, page 1. Representative Mills stated that under the U. S. Code it is a federal felony.

Chairman Murphy stated that there were eight people signed up in opposition to the legislation, and he would ask that each one keep their testimony to 5 minutes and to please not repeat what another person has already testified to. Those speaking against the legislation were Sandy Michaels, a criminal defense attorney, Frank Mulkahey, Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Georgia, Eric Voss, Gerry Gonzalez, and Virgilio Pasque.

At 4:35 p.m. Chairman Murphy stated that since he had lost a quorum, he was placing the bill in a Subcommittee for further study.

Chairman of the Subcommittee will be Senator Mullis, and the other members will be Senator Carter and Senator Seay.

Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
March 19, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on March 19, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator Joseph Carter, 13th, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Valencia Seay, 34th, and Senator Gloria Butler, 55th.

HB 1220, Sims, 169th, Special license plates; firefighters; provisions

Chairman Murphy opened the meeting by stating that he will hear four bills in committee today, and he asked Senator Jackson to open the meeting with prayer. In the absence of Representative Sims, Chairman Murphy called upon Mr. Michael Shelnett of the Georgia Firefighters Association to speak to the legislation.

Mr. Shelnett stated that the legislation allows for a special license plate for firefighters and allows the spouse to continue the tag after the firefighter has passed away. Chairman called upon Senator Douglas for a question. Senator Douglas stated that he would like to offer an amendment to the legislation which offers a license plate to support Georgia's troops. He stated that the amendment was supported by the National Guard.

Chairman Murphy asked the committee for a motion on the amendment. Senator Douglas moved "Do Pass by Substitute" and Senator Mullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Murphy then asked the committee for a motion on the bill. Senator Mullis moved "Do Pass by Substitute" and Senator Grant seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SR 1147, Douglas, 17th, Fleeing Law Enforcement Pursuits; create Senate Study Committee

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Douglas to speak to his resolution. Senator Douglas stated that this legislation would create a Senate Study Committee on Fleeing and Law Enforcement Pursuits. The Study Committee would undertake a study of the conditions and needs, and recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. Senator Mullis moved "Do Pass," and Senator Grant seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HB 963, Geisinger, 48th, Special license plates; soccer; provide

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Geisinger to speak to his legislation. Representative Geisinger stated that this bill would create a license plate for soccer. This is being pushed by the Georgia Soccer Association to raise funds for this organization to promote soccer in Georgia. Senator Mullis moved "Do Pass by Substitute," and Senator Seay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HB 978, Mills, 25th, Traffic accidents; illegal immigrants, seize vehicle; allow law enforcement.

Senator Murphy called upon Representative Mills to speak to the legislation. Representative Mills stated that he has a substitute to HB 978, LC 35 0977S. The legislation requires law enforcement officers to impound any motor vehicle whose driver was involved in an accident and not licensed to drive. The law enforcement officer must follow the impoundment, recovery, and disposal procedures found in Chapter 11 of Title 40 relating to abandoned vehicles. The vehicle will only be released to a person displaying an unexpired license. Upon conviction the court will impose a \$1,000 fine to be paid to the respective local law enforcement agency.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Mullis for a comment. Senator Mullis thanked Representative Mills for being flexible, and Senator Jones then thanked Representative Mills for making changes in the legislation regarding impoundment. Senator Douglas commented that he favored an amendment regarding impoundment to require 48 to 72 hours notice to the car owner. Mr. John Haliburton, lobbyist for the Georgia Independent Auto Dealers (GIADA) stated that a major problem is with the towing and fees.

Chairman Murphy then called upon Senator Butler for a motion. Senator Butler moved to amend the bill by striking lines 1-7. Senator Seay seconded. Motion passed 7-3. Opposed to the motion were Senators Grant, Mullis, and Carter.

Representative Mills agreed with the amendment. Chairman Murphy then called upon Senator Douglas for a motion. Senator Douglas moved "Do Pass by Substitute". Motion passed 8-2. Opposed to the motion were Senator Davenport and Senator Jones.

There was no further business, and Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
March 27, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on March 27, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present were: Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman, Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Gail Davenport, 44th, Senator Valencia Seay, 34th, Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, and Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th.

HB 969, Lunsford, 110th, Driver education training requirements; home schooling program; provisions

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Lunsford to speak to his legislation. Representative Lunsford stated that this is a simple bill. It provides for driver's education courses to be taught in home schools as long as the curriculum is approved by the Department of Driver Services. Representative Lunsford stated the Governor's Office of Highway Safety wished to amend the bill by inserting language from HB 1247 relating to Code 40-5-22 as an incentive to law enforcement. Senator Mullis moved "Do Pass by Substitute," and Senator Douglas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HB 1037, Parsons, 42nd, Driver education purposes; traffic law violations; additional penalty; extend expiration date

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Parsons to speak to his legislation. Representative Parsons stated that HB 1037 amends Code section 15-21-179 of the O.C.G.A. relating to penalties to be assessed for driver education purposes and extends the sunset of Joshua's Law which was enacted in 2005 from 6/30/2008 to 6/30/2012.

Chairman Murphy asked Representative Parsons what the fees are now, and Representative Parsons stated that the fees now are 5% of a traffic fine to be used for driver training. The fines brought in \$20m, and \$6m was used for driver training. The legislation also directs the DDS in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to compile a report which includes the amount of money collected under the provisions of the code section and the amount of money spent on driver education programs in the state.

After brief discussion, Senator Jones, moved "Do Pass by Substitute," and Senator Mullis, seconded. Motion passed 5-1. Voting in favor of the motion were Senator Douglas, Senator Jackson, Senator Mullis, Senator Jones, and Senator Seay. Opposed to the motion was Senator Butler.

HB 950, Powell, 29th, Motor vehicles; assembled; registration and licensing; provide

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Powell to speak to his legislation. Representative Powell stated that he is working with Substitute LC 34 1866S and that this legislation is a revenue housekeeping bill regarding car tags for assembled motor vehicles or motorcycles, more commonly known as “kit cars” and “kit motorcycles.” The legislation requires that they have an inspection by the Department of Revenue and they can be issued a title through the Department of Revenue.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Douglas for a question. Senator Douglas asked if these license plates exempt parking license plates from the county decal requirements. Chairman Murphy asked Mr. Doug Hooper from the Department of Revenue if he would reply to the question. Mr. Hooper stated that the purpose was to allow them to put retired veterans’ decals on the tag in place of county labels.

Senator Mullis thanked Representative Powell for bringing the legislation and asked if they could work on leaving the county name on the tag along with the veterans’ decals. Senator Douglas stated that the Department of Revenue is redesigning the veterans’ tags.

Senator Davenport, 44th, arrived at the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Chairman Murphy asked Representative Powell how many of these “kit” cars and motorcycles there are in Georgia, and Representative Powell stated that there are approximately 50,000. Senator Butler, moved “Do Pass by Substitute,” and Senator Mullis, seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HB 951, Powell, 29th, Used Motor Vehicle Dealers’ Act; rebuilder; redefine term

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Powell to speak to this companion legislation, and Representative Powell stated that the legislation redefines “rebuilder” to now mean any person, partnership, limited liability company, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of buying more than two salvaged or wrecked motor vehicles per year for the purpose of restoring or rebuilding them with used or new motor vehicle parts to be sold as motor vehicles.

The legislation allows ordinary citizens to rebuild vehicles, and the title will be stamped to indicate the vehicle is rebuilt. Senator Douglas asked why there is a concern about the number rebuilt. Representative Powell stated that they must have a rebuilder’s license for the purpose of running factories. The Department of Revenue will have records under the title.

Senator Mullis moved “Do Pass,” and Senator Butler seconded. Motion passed. Voting in favor of the motion were Senator Butler, Senator Mullis, Senator Jackson, Senator Seay, Senator Jones, and Senator Davenport. Senator Douglas abstained.

HB 333, Starr, 78th, Weapons; crime or delinquent act; provisions

Chairman Murphy called upon Representative Starr to speak to his legislation. Representative Starr stated at the present time when a weapon is confiscated it must be turned over to the Sheriff's Office. This legislation allows the agency which confiscated the weapon to dispose of such weapon. All proceeds from the sale must be turned over to the county, and then it is paid into the state treasury. Any agency must maintain records including description of each weapon seized along with records of whether each weapon or device was retained, sold, or destroyed.

After brief discussion, Senator Seay moved "Do Pass," and Senator Davenport seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Since there was no further business, Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jack Murphy, 27th, Chairman

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate Public Safety Committee
March 31, 2008

The Senate Public Safety Committee held a meeting on March 31, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Members present at the meeting were Chairman Jack Murphy, 27th, Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Vice Chairman, Senator Jeff Chapman, 3rd, Secretary, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Senator John Douglas, 17th, Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Senator Joseph Carter, 13th, and Senator Gail Davenport, 44th.

[HB 1368](#), Rogers, 26th, Motor vehicle licensing requirements; out-of-state student exemption; provisions

Chairman Murphy introduced Representative Rogers, 26th, to speak to his legislation. Representative Rogers stated that this legislation regards out-of-state students who are in our Georgia public and private colleges and universities. The legislation will allow these out-of-state students to drive in the state of Georgia using their own home state driver's licenses while they are enrolled in college in Georgia institutions. These students must have proof of enrollment and payment of tuition inside the vehicle. After brief discussion Senator Grant moved "Do Pass," and Senator Mullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Senator Mullis at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Chapman, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

August 5, 2008

Mr. Bob Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
Georgia State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

I herewith submit the bills remaining in the Senate Public Safety Committee for the 2008 Session of the General Assembly.

These bills are as follows:

[SB 4](#), [SB 252](#), [SB 274](#), [SB 299](#), [SB 307](#), [SB 409](#), [SB 446](#), [SB 510](#)
[HB 254](#), [HB 368](#), [HB 1165](#).

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mary W. Whiting
Recording Secretary
Senate Public Safety Committee